

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1596 - HB 2062

March 13, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to combine the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) and the Division of Ground Water Protection (DGWP) into a single board. A plan for the merger will be completed by TDEC by September 1, 2009 and the merger must be completed by January 1, 2010.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$103,600

Assumptions:

- Currently appeals for the denial of permits and variances are heard by the TDEC Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee. Under the provisions of this bill these appeals would be heard by the WQCB. As a result, state expenditures would increase due to increased reimbursement of WQCB members for additional meetings.
- Each permit appeal takes approximately two hours to hear. Each variance appeal would take approximately four hours to hear.
- There are approximately 250 permit denial appeals each year. There are approximately 13 variance denial appeals each year.
- The increase in hours spent in appeal hearings for the board each year is estimated to be 552 hours $[(250 \times 2) + (13 \times 4)] = 552$.
- Each work day is 7.5 hours. Therefore, there are estimated to be approximately 74 additional days of meeting required to hear the appeals $(552 / 7.5 = 73.6)$.
- The average cost for a one-day board meeting is \$1,400. Based on an estimated increase of 74 additional days, the increase to state expenditures resulting from the additional time spent by the WQCB hearing such appeals is approximately \$103,600 $(\$1,400 \times 74 = \$103,600)$.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/cce